

Rotary District 5340 Youth Instrumental Music Competition

Information for Club Presidents, Area Asst. Governors, Youth Services Directors, RYIMC Club Chairs

The purpose of the Rotary Youth Instrumental Music Competition (RYIMC) is to determine, recognize and reward the District 5340 student contestant demonstrating the greatest level of excellence in instrumental musical talent and training, as well as their love of music.

While competitions at the first level, Club Contests remain unchanged, as introduced last year, we plan to hold four Instrument Category Finals in March, which replace the Regional Semi Finals of earlier years. The four Categories will be 1) Classical strings; 2) Classical winds and brass; 3) Classical piano and percussion; and 4) Contemporary / Popular / Jazz / Traditional (i.e. music that is improvised rather than written down). The judges at the Category Finals will be professional musicians in those respective fields and two winners will be selected in each category, one the best aged 16 or over on 1/1/27 and the other the most promising student aged under 16.

Clubs may send up to two finalists to the next level of the competition. The entry fee that the Club pays to the District is \$200 per finalist, i.e. \$400 total if you advance two students. Remember that at the next level prizes will be awarded by instrument category and by age (over or under 16). All finalists will receive cash prizes.

The two winners in each category (eight students in total) will be invited to perform in the Winners' Celebration Concert in April 2027. The most promising students under 16 will perform first and the Grand Prize winner of \$1000 will be selected by a panel of judges. Then the best students over 16 will perform and an additional Grand Prize winner, also of \$1000, will be selected by the panel. We may consider having an additional prize selected by overall audience vote.

Prize money will be awarded at each level of competition:

Rotary Club Contests held in January and February. Prizes funded by the Club. Suggested amounts 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50. You may decide to award two first prizes for the finalists you select and then a smaller runner-up prize to all the other participants.

Rotary Instrument Category Finals Contests in March, dates and venues TBD by Jan 31, 2027. Prizes funded through Club entry fees and District 5340. Actual amounts may vary depending on the number of students put forward to the second level by Clubs. All runners-up receive a prize at this level (e.g. \$150). The winners do not receive a cash prize at this level, but advance to the Winners Concert where all participants receive a prize.

The Rotary District Winners Celebration Concert in April. Date and venue will be confirmed in September 2026. Prizes funded by District 5340. Two Grand prizes of \$1000 awarded by a panel of judges, other Finals contestants \$500. We may have an additional prize awarded by audience vote.

Helpful hints for Club Competition Chairs:

1. Set a date, venue and scope for your Club Contest

- a. Agree a budget for your event with your Club President (typically around \$800 for a club competition including prizes, entry fees, judge stipends, piano tuning and refreshments)
- b. Pick a date and venue for your competition. Club competitions should be held in January or February 2027. **Note the deadline for submitting the name(s) of your winner(s) to Janet White and the associated fee to the District is Friday Feb 26, 2027.** Ideally the venue should have a (tuned) piano as students may bring an accompanist. Some clubs hold the contest at a regular meeting. This can require tight time management! Other clubs hold the contest at a member's home. Other options include using a nearby retirement home, as many have a large room with a piano, or the community room in a public library.
- c. Consider how many contestants you can accommodate given the venue and duration of your event
- d. Complete the Club Contest form online here <https://forms.gle/ZkA5MXgEy6Kx6Lmp8> with details of your event

You will receive a copy of your submitted form by email, and you will be able to go in and make any updates (including the names of your Club Contest winner(s)).

- e. Note that student applications will be online this year. The link to the online student application form is here <https://forms.gle/UD6EknDyhEBEARiT9> and is also listed on the District Competition website. Participating Clubs will be listed on a drop-down menu from which the student selects, so it's important for you to let students know which Club to select. I will email all applications received to the respective Club Contest Chairs weekly,

and may also reach out to place with Clubs students who apply centrally and do not designate a Club, based on geography and capacity.

2. Promote your Club Contest and solicit applications

- a. Promote your competition to Club members, local High School Music Departments, music schools, and private music teachers.
- b. This is a great opportunity for your Club to work closely with local High School Music Departments, to promote Rotary's commitment to Arts and Music Education. Meet with High School Administrators and/or their Music Department Head and Educators, to encourage the participation of their students.
- c. Ask if you can place a notice and/or application in the High School Parent/Student newsletter (either online or hard copy). School newsletters often go out weekly or monthly, and your notice can run for several weeks running, if allowed.
- d. Consider contacting local private teachers or music school faculties, for their support in seeking out student participants.
- e. Notify local newspapers of the Music Contest dates and prizes.
- f. Contact your local library for options on how they might promote your Club contest, if they wish to do so.
- g. Encourage students to submit digital applications via the link on the District Website <https://rotary5340.org/sitepage/youth-service/instrumental-music-competition> The application for link is <https://forms.gle/UD6EknDyhEBEARiT9> Let them know which Club Contest they should select on their application. Remember to set a deadline for applications so that you have time to screen, preselect and prepare for any special needs your contestants may have.

I will also reach out to local youth orchestras and music programs to help with general awareness and student recruitment. Depending how many students each club can accommodate, we may ask if students that apply centrally may be considered to participate in your club competition.

3. Plan the event

- a. Publicize your Club competition, make it a social event. Invite the public to attend the competition, if appropriate. This could be a nice opportunity to engage with potential new Rotary Club members.

b. Seek out qualified judges from outside your Club if appropriate, to remove any bias. The Music team at my club kindly agreed to serve as judges, since none had any connection to any of the contestants. Judges should be music professionals and should be comfortable evaluating the instruments / genres played by your applicants. Suggested fee for judges is \$75 and a sample Judges Score Sheet is available on the District 5340 Youth Services webpage under Links – Music Contest Resources

4. **Submit the name(s) of your Club's contest winner(s) via email to RYIMC Chair Janet White, by Friday February 26, 2027,** and mail your Club's entry fee, \$200 per student payable to "Rotary District 5340" with a memo that this is for RYIMC and with the students' name(s). Checks should be mailed to Rotary District 5340, PO Box 712407, Santee CA 92072.

5. The four Instrumental Category Finals will be held in March 2027 – venues and dates to be confirmed by end Jan 2026. The Winners Celebration Concert will be held in April 2027, venue and date to be confirmed in September 2026. All participating clubs are strongly encouraged to attend the Instrument Category Finals and the Winners Celebration Concert.

The contestant is responsible for their travel expenses. SHOULD A ROTARIAN DRIVE THE CONTESTANT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ROTARIAN MUST BE YOUTH CERTIFIED.

For further information and questions, contact:

Janet White at cellojanet@gmail.com

Club Contest Form

Please complete the form online at <https://forms.gle/ZkA5MXgEy6Kx6Lmp8>. The questions are included below for information

Required answer*

Club Name*

Name of Club Contest Chair*

Email of Club Contest Chair*

Phone number of Club Contest Chair*

Date and time of Club Competition*

Location of Club Competition*

Maximum number of students you seek to participate*

Are you willing to accept students that apply centrally for your competition (Yes / No)

Winner 1

Student Name

Student Instrument

Category (select one of 1) Classical strings; 2) Classical winds and brass; 3) Classical piano and percussion; 4) Contemporary / Popular / Jazz / Traditional])

Age (select one of Under 16 on 1/1/27; 16 and above)

Winner 2

Student Name

Student Instrument

Category (select one of 1) Classical strings; 2) Classical winds and brass; 3) Classical piano and percussion; 4) Contemporary / Popular / Jazz / Traditional])

Age (select one of Under 16 on 1/1/27; 16 and above)